

Course: SLIS 711-Fall 2019  
Instructor: Edward Blessing  
Assignment: Write Your Own Obituary  
Due date: 11:59 pm, September 2  
Grade Value: 5 points

I'd like you all to take some time this week and think critically about your future goals, either personal, professional, or some combination of both. It helps to begin by examining where you are in life and how you got here, and compare this to how you want people to think of you after you are deceased. In other words, what is your dream legacy, and how do you think you can get there based on your present circumstances?

Perhaps the originator of this exercise is Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite. Here's his wikipedia page, which describes how he was challenged by his legacy when he read a prematurely published obituary that portrayed him in less than positive light. (link to that article: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred\\_Nobel#Personal\\_life](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Nobel#Personal_life)) If you search on the internet you can also find some other examples of this sort of assignment and the benefits of completing it: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/can-t-we-all-just-get-along/201709/have-you-written-your-obituary>.

I encourage you to write whatever comes to mind, even if it feels like stream-of-consciousness. Use words, phrases, sentences, and try not to overthink it. If you censor, analyze, or critique your own thoughts before you share them you might miss wonderful opportunities later in life.

Give yourself about 30 minutes to complete this assignment: 5-10 minutes to reflect, and another 15-20 to write. There are no word limits, either maximum or minimum.